4/9/72

Each morning, it seems, I am just a bit wearier. Today, having slept later than usual, until 6:30 , I am more, not less aware of it. With awareness, I find myself wondering why. Will the change in weather (hard freeze again last night, predicted for tonight, strong, cold winds) which will permit walking and other kins of outside work make a change? Lil thinks it is that I am sort of obsessed by the idea of getting older. I don't. I think I'm just tired and tiring faster. As I pondered it this morning,considering what I'd do with Bud and Jim due here at 10, I have come to feel that the oppression I feel is to a small degree from the lack of meaningful help from those who could so easily provide it and prate as though they do and mostly from intrusions into the writing of what I have researched. And another major part if my inability to move forward with the legal situations I have brought to the point of doing something by so much effort.

It is when I am making an organized record, pouring it out on paper, tthat I get a kind of relief from all of this, that the weaigh falls or is unfelt. Writing is what I want to do, get all this writing that I will do done and, hoepfully, turn to other things, the first no less oppressive but promisingly commercial, the story of the city man turned famous (trye) farmer only to be ruined by helicopters. Kind of a blending of Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House and The Egg and I. It will be painful but, I've been told by several agents, should make a movie. I think it is this, the necessary reliving of that hard period for the suit, that today makes discomfort. It can't be abided and can't be avpided.

Today I suspect it is because of the mess Bud et al ahve made of the things we'll be discussing that depresses. I did all the work except drafting the complain (and of that I did a rough) and the legal research. We're in court on that the 14th. We'll have little time for the Ray case, on which we should spend much time.

Having reconciled myself to never again making a living, I have no trouble with that, only worry when, as now, the interest fall due and it will clean us out to meet it. Lil had adcumulated that much from her pay and she wrote the check last night. She also announced she gets but one more check.

So, if I seem a bit thick, maybe these things will help explain it, for with anticipation of a better mood I turn to Jim's informative letters I skimmed on receipt sveral days ago.

The Hoppe stuff is consistently great. I could never sustain anything like that.

And your note on the girl: I thought you knew of Matt Herron. He turned half-hippie while a Black Satr photog (and a great one). He was a N.O. friend soon due back from Africe with his 32-foot boart, wife, boy, girl and draft-resisting, term-serving former apprentice. Fine, decent, warm human being. He will be living in Calif., where his in-laws do. He is maligned by Frank. Meanwhile, the letter I wrote that girl, who sounded so rational on the phone, was sent from her Madison address to the hospital (part of Univ Chi.) where a doctor put in in an envelope and returned to to me with the note no lomger here. Git it yesterday or day before. So, I suspect she is sick, was reaching for help, and, having anticipated that as a possibility, can only hope she went where I directed her, a psychologist friend who is also human.

Lil rather enjoyed the Ramparts Russo piece, but by the time she read a few graphs in bed at night she was asleep, and it took her some time to read it. I've not had an anser from Kelly.

Je's notes KPFA 3/28 Denise Bourdet on ITT does have what was not in Post and is interesting in verious ways. Journalistically it is because she cuts through all the nonsense, says what the statements mean and not what they say, whereas the paper hewed the line of saying what they say, which is to lie to the people. A general, perhaps hasty, perhaps wrong comment on the Kleindinest matter: We live in an age in which there is no real political courage, no genuine political principle, so this horrible man has a fine prospect of confirmation, with all the evil that will mean-and only because nobody has really fought him as it would be easy with a couple of good kid researchers to fight him, on his record, which is pretty public. He is that arrogant. His bare face hangs out all the time.

I do hope that the letters Jim writers, which are helpful in many and ifferent ways, are not a burden to him with his awful schedule. On the patchcord (3/30) he may have hit it right on the button. The VOM does use 5 1 1/2v batteries and the TC40 uses 4. I'll ask a friend with the phone company or ask Bud when he is here is he has anyone he can trust. The minimum charge here at the only shop that shows any prospect of knowledge is $8.00

hr and I lack confidence in their clock as well as their knowledge. In trying to dub, I've been feeding to the Sony because it has better quality and because there was some trouble with the recording part of the VOM. Next I'll try it the other way and see if the cord works both ways and if that overcomes the blasting. My Concord patchcord would probably work from Sony to Sony, for they use the same kind of plug Sony does on the mike. Your recollection of t e Norelco plugs is correct. They are identical with the VOM.

On the tapes, thanks for the info on the new kinds. Lil will compute what we dare risk on the Sonys for my next trip. We got another mailing from Sony, enclosed, in case you didn't and in case any part interests you. There is no need to replace the cassettes I snet you. It will cost a quarter of what they cost me, 50¢. I made them for you, so keep them or reuse them for dubbing. I missed a couple of good ones of that period, sorry to say, one of a panel with Martin Agronsky. I do hope that some day you write of this period, as you can, when even tiny things can have value and meaning.

Tea:we get and prefer a Japanese green in DC. Can't afford the better but enjoy the cheapest. Lil's taste is like yours' (except for the cream and sugar. I like some Chinese reddish teas the identities of which I do no know from the dim past when we ate in Chinese restaurants where few spoke English. The Earl Grey is a scented tea, prized in England but not by me. I'm using it up becuase I don't like the ordinary teas, including Lipton's. And Julian Schuman is the man whose name I couldn't think of I thought might want my books. If you ever hear how to reach him, I can forward through a prof. friend in Canada, and I'll say as a gift from you. You had mentioned him during the Visit. Lincoln Square footnote is good idea. I should be there before too long, and my photo has been taken at such places so often it holds no terror. Last:Cubans. First, embassy USSR, when reporting.

Text ITT releases. I suspect we'll see full texts none of them because of hankypanky and as of now I think it has past point of real utility, unless something else breaks out. I have come to understand these kinds of semantics rather well, and Hoover never fails to use them. Most of the private people in the business learned the same lingo from him and use it as he does.

Marshall:If I didn't tell you, as I think I did in confidence, he finally admitted that he regards Jackie, not the family, as his client. Jones Harris, who may not be trust worthy source, says this is some more of the Kennedy supersmart stupidity. He has posed as close to them. He finally married Heidi (Alfred Gwynne's) Vandebilt. He if son Jed Harris and Ruth Gordon, stepson Garson Kanin, as I recall. Luftmensch,if you know the German. ... Glad you got to see Terrill on TV. Office, I presume, or during goofoff. That was one time it would have been good for Je to have had one....Time has caught up with you on invites:Demos invited. Hacks, natch.

I do not repeat or comment on it, but it is where you share your enormous knowledge and understanding of the Chinese that you expand my possibilities of understanding. Your phrase is reenter the world scene. I think the Chinese timing on this was keyed to their own feeling of being able to do it on a basis of equality as much as the stretegic concepts, the world situation, bot favorable to this timing. They now have IT and the means of delivery.

I agree with you on the diminishing-returns aspect of the phoney cases, esp. vs. the blacks, but I think you are taking a too-restrictive view. I think Angela's address, for example, was more than fine, it was constructive and will reach many not touched before. But I also feel as I have from the first that one of the intents of all these phoney prosecutions was to immobolize, and that it continues to do. As I look back now on what I wrote in '68 on this and related matters, I feel good about my understanding, and others are now realizing and saying the same thing, simplified as the provoking of violence to require force in its represseion, to drive the country into a more authoritarian stance and at the same time gain acceptance for it, including from the eastern liberals. The government can and probably will lose most of the cases and still win its main point. But it suffers a by-product, a unification among the oppressed.

On the Cold War, we'll have to await time's unravelling. I think the entire concept and form if imperialism has changed, not from altruism but from non-profit. There will be a lingering domino-theory, anti-red paranoia, but it is my view that US interests will too-late again shift to Latin America and home.,Out economy is all but perished. The anti-red character of post-war relief has Frankensteined on us. And until someone uses the BOMB, all relationships are changed. We remain the most stupid, the least understanding, like Abrams statement in today's papers about how big a mistake the NVN have made. We made

the arrogant blunders, first in demanding what I call a reverse Clausewitz, getting at the conference table what we cannot wrest by arms, then saying they won't negotiate ingood faith, which the rest of t e world will understand means only that they won't cow before us and meet our terms, and they have established their good faith and capability by the offensive that after all this time still caught us by surprise and has been a smashing success. They can't lose, we can't win, and we can't find the grace to accept a settlement. They'll not again agree to the sabing of a white face, as they did on USSR's intervention in Geneva. Or to oversimplify, I think the forces of the cold war will trun unward and they'll have to find something else to waste money on besides the kinds of military production that have keep the factories going. The possibilties are limitless, but not for the biggies. You can't rebuild cities in GE and GM abd Boeing and Lockheed plants.

The Chinese understanding of us cannot be as empire-builders because the empires were built before our time, before we had the capability, and now that time is past. I don't think they have a better view of us because we abused them less, for I think they think we abused them less only because we had less capability, not higher standards. I could, were it not that if my guests are on time I'll not have time, carry this further. I could argue that this emergence of China can become the most inportant single stablisizing force in the world today, and the one most likely to bring a state closer to traditional international peace. The alternative is inconceivable, use of the BOMB. On a few years, with their numbers, they ll have the great advantage there, of having best chances of surving its use. The more primitive nature of their society is in this direction, too. And in time, as the men responsible for the bad relations pass, the relations will, perforce, improve, between the Chinese and Russians, too. To me the key thing is what everyone ignores: no matter how fierce the rhetoric and personal attacks, neither has abrogated the mutual-defense treaty. This means to me that despite everything, they're determined to stick together against the rest of the world. As the common border means greater likelihood of conflict, it also means the best way for two allies to fight, one with his back to the other, that is, put another way, facing the real enemy and not having to worry about the shiv in the back. Nixon will get nothing antiOChinese from the USSR, I predict.

What you say of Mao knowing he was wrong on Tito vlows my mind wide open. I'd never stopped to think of it that way. Of course? And brilliant.

On McArthur, considering Willoughby, how could be have been other than misinformed by his G2? You are undoubtedly right about McA being 25 years out of touch with China, but that does not staisfactorily (to me) explain his stupid decision to march too far north. That comes from long-standing US milotary policy. He might have done it without this, on his own, simply because he considered it his Holy Mission or because he held to ancient and longoutdated beliefs. Old imperialism, and for this who the Chibese were would have made no difference to him. Hope you have since explanded your notes on what he told you. And that whole era shows how our military never learned their Clausewitz and have only a Neanderthal concept of politics, taught by the ignorant to the ignorant at the major military institutions of ignorance that succeed only because the possible adversaries are so weak.

Story on mlurners magnificent! You have, for the first time, made sense for me of that crazy contradiction: Mao probing the Russians under Stalin so wrong in their interpretation of Marx and then deifying Stalin as the true exempart of Marx! Cunning these heathen Chinese! If we agree, as you correctly say, on the ridiculousness of all of this, I think we should also remember that we are the ordinary ones who do not have the major problems to grapple with, and that those who do have to improvise, have to find some ways of coping with or getting around them. History is replete with such seeming stupidities that so often have to exist in some form, such being the state of the body politic in each era. The one time we could have escaped it FDR died. The we had Truman, Churchil, and that plagiarism of Hitler at Fulton, and only now is the fatx diminishing from a full fire to a simmering, fizzing flame in a frying pan.

Guests never on time, now due, so I'd best knock off. I do hope you have time for such illuminating letters (And while Lil now hasn't time to read them, I just read excerpts to her while she washed her hair-she like that moruner story best!) They tell me what I could not learn for myself or dope out independently. Many thanks.